

CD NO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

CONDITIONS IN GRAZING AREAS OF CHINA

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In the past these areas have depended upon the natural increase of flocks and herds. Many natural factors such as wind, snow, drought, etc., adversely affected production. Tribal differences also contributed to low production. These are now largely cleared away.

Progress has been spotty so far. Many cadres were not acquainted with pastoral problems. Cadres must be able to adapt their practices to classes and customs of the people. Production increase depends on training of many indigenous grazing area cadres. This and the increase in the human population are important to livestock production increases. Already much medical work is being done among the shepherd people, especially in the treatment of venereal diseases. Prospects for population increase with the resulting increase of pastoral labor force, are good.

In grazing areas the implementation of the policy of no struggle and no classification [such as occurred during land reform in agricultural areas], and of benefits for both owners and herdsmen, is important. The capitalist system in grazing cannot be immediately done away with without unduly damaging the economy.

In the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, a new system of owner-herdsman labor contracts with provision for reasonable cash wages has been instituted instead of the former wage-in-kind system (food, clothing, etc.). Wages are set by direct negotiation or by groups of delegates. Local conditions are taken into consideration.

Undesirable deviations have appeared in some places, including undue limitations placed on owners and violations of contracts by owners.

In the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region lands owned by nationalities or tribes, or jointly owned, have been made unrestricted public grazing lands. In Tsinghai and Sinkiang, where much grazing land is owned privately or by clans in connection with clan shrines, the handling of the land has been largely governed by conference in order to give due weight to the local nationality customs. Emphasis has been placed on adjudicating old feuds over the use of such lands. During the past 3 years [1949-1952] some 3,000 such feuds have been discussed and adjudicated.

For the benefit of herdsmen and small stock owners the government has sought to increase trade flow, has issued loans for fuel and equipment, and provided free inoculations against epidemics among animals. The policy of increasing production, organization of cooperative activities, and improvement in wage scales has been employed to aid poor herders. In Inner Mongolia loans have totaled 220 billion yuan; in Suiyuan, 144 billion. Much relief aid has been extended in calamity areas especially in the form of breeding stock, tents, Mongol yurts, bean cakes for feed, and pumps for water supply. In 1950, 7,000 sheep were loaned to poor people in the Hu-na Meng. A year later the number of sheep had increased by 44 percent.

During the past 3 years [1949-1952], the increase in goods flow has resulted in an increased supply of cereals for the pastoral peoples to use as food. This has reduced the slaughter of animals for food. Quantities of stock feed, machinery, and consumer goods coming into the grazing areas has been considerably increased; and also work animals for the agricultural areas, and the movement of industrial and commercial raw materials, such as hides, furs, etc., from the area has likewise increased.

In 1952, the State Trading Company alone shipped 8,577 head of stock from the Hu-na Meng. In Tsinghai the State Trading Company bought 1,055,228 hides and 683,600 strips of casings. In Sinkiang the State Trading Company bought 1,825,790 catties of hair and 1,866,050 hides.

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In 1951, the average purchasing power of stock owners in Inner Mongolia was 433,000 yuan; in 1952, it was 506,000 yuan. Taxation has purposely been kept light among the stock owners to facilitate their economic progress.

It is necessary to convert the past dissensions between agriculturists and grazers into cooperation. In the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region there are some 2,600 grazing cooperatives of various sorts, both seasonal and year-round types.

In Hsin-pa-erh-hu-yu-i Ch'i cooperatives for protection against calamities succeeded in reducing loss of stock from freezing from 14,200 head in 1949 to 700 head in 1951. In a few places, authoritarianism has developed in cooperatives and should be corrected. All cooperative activities should start with the simple and develop to the more complicated.

Stock owners are of both nomadic and seminomadic types. The seminomadic life is preferable for growth of human population but not so good for grazing. The best plan is to promote permanent residences for the old folk and children while the able-bodied young folk follow the flocks and herds on the pasture lands. In this way, hygienic measures and education can be promoted.

A number of supplementary industries, such as milk processing, felt-making, tanning, cart-making, transport, hunting and fishing are being carried on. The value of supplementary industry products in the Hsi-ling-kuo-lo [Silingol] Meng in 1952 was 15.8 billion yuan. In the 3 years, 1950 through 1952, stock owners in Tsinghai earned 34.3 billion yuan in transport activities. The 213 households of the A-la-ha-k'o nomads in Ch'eng-hua Hsien, Sinkiang, averaged an income of 1,466,000 yuan from supplementary industries in 1952.

In 1949, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional Government established five state-owned grazing areas and five breeding stations for the improvement of horses. Such grazing areas have also been set up in Suiyuan and are operated along socialist lines. They collect scientific breeding and feeding experience for demonstration purposes. Plans for rotation of pasturage are being worked out and thousands of new wells are being dug in the various grazing areas of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the Northwest. Other thousands of old wells are being restored to full usefulness.

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